GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6529
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010
SILENT VALLEY NATIONAL PARK
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Silent Valley National Park has been proposed for inclusion in the World Heritage List of the UNESCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria under which the National Park being proposed to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY)

(a)&(b) The Silent Valley National Park has been included in one of the seven sub-clusters of the Serial Nomination on Western Ghats submitted by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India to the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO.

(c) Criteria (vii), (ix) & (x) of Para 77 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (Annexure I) have been proposed for inclusion of the site in the World Heritage List.

Annexure I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6529 FOR 05.05.2010

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

II.D Criteria for the assessment of outstanding universal value
77. The Committee considers a property as having outstanding universal value (see paragraphs 49- 53) if the property meets one or more of the following criteria. Nominated properties shall therefore:

(i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;

(ii) exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;

(iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;

(iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;

(v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;

(vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);

(vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;

(viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages ofearth`s history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;

(ix) be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
(x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.